

out of the cruder and less fruitful forms of the alliance of children against adults, and further his social development by means of it.

*c. To younger or inferior children (or any temporary scape-goat)*

The incidents brought together under this heading illustrate still further the direct rivalry of children in general with younger members of the family. On this theme little more need be said for the moment. But this primary rivalry with the new baby for the love and care of the parents is reinforced in the group by circumstantial reasons. It is naturally easier and safer to attack the smaller and younger children than the older and bigger—not only because there is less danger of effective counter-attack, but also because there is less to be gained by friendliness to them. The older or socially more effective members of the group are the natural leaders, and, after the adults, the natural arbiters of justice in the group. They attack or defend property, and dispense favours and prestige. Hence it behoves the bulk of children in the group to admire and follow them, and to hide or displace hostility. But the mundane advantages to be gained from the affection of the younger children are fewer and less certain. The motives for inhibiting any aggression that arises are weaker. Instances of open hostility to younger or inferior children thus occur more frequently than any other form of group hostility.

Sometimes the hostility of the majority of the children to a particular child is able to justify itself to some extent even in adult eyes. The child who is never able to co-operate, or who spoils group games or handiwork either by aggression

or "silliness", is understandably not loved by the others. But such solid grounds for dislike and disapproval are far from sufficing on every occasion for the amount of hostility shown by a group, or for the particular choice of object among those children who are not strong enough to retaliate, or who have no favours they can withdraw in revenge.

We have to look for deeper motives if we are to understand all the instances adequately. The children themselves offer us plenty of hints as to the mental processes which on most occasions lead to hostility to younger or inferior children.